

Income Maintenance Advisory Committee

Division of Economic Support

M I N U T E S

Thursday, January 18, 2001
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

125 S. Webster Street, GEF III
Room 041
Madison, WI

County Attendees: Jackie Bennett, Racine Co. WDC, Dick Buschmann, Milwaukee Co. DHS, Jill Erickson, Milwaukee Co. DHS, Joanne Faber, Washington Co. DSS, Liz Green, Rock Co. HSD, Ed Kamin, Tri-Chair, Kenosha Co. JC, Robert Macaux, Florence Co. DHS, Kim Pomeroy, Clark Co. DSS, John Rathman, Outagamie Co., Shirley Ross, LaCrosse Co. HSD, Sue Schmitz, Waukesha Co. DHS, Sara Shackleton, Dane County JC, and Sheryl Siegl, Winnebago Co. DHS.

State Attendees: Peggy Bartels, Tri-Chair, DHFS/DHCF, Rita Black-Radloff, BWSP, John Haine, DHFS/DHCF/BHCE, Tim Hineline, BWSP, Jim Jones, DHFS/DHCF, Rose Lynch, ASD, Jennifer Noyes, Tri-Chair, AO, Liz Scudder, BFS, Shawn Smith, BDS, Edie Sprehn, BFS, Susan Wood, DHFS/DHCF, and Rick Zynda, BWSP/OFSMA.

Other: Jane Ahlstrom, AFSCME Council



General IMAC Announcements

None

CARES Update

Rose Lynch provided the update and handouts on the CARES recent and upcoming changes overview. She added that the notices' redesign continues to be the highest priority. Tim Hineline will provide a presentation for the next meeting on notices' redesign. Tim also provided an update and a handout on the WISDOM Date Warehouse Statewide Rollout.

Ed Kamin added that more attention would be given to the data warehouse trainings if the Area Administrators notified agencies when the dates and locations were firmly set. Sara Shackleton asked if agencies were limited in the number of staff they could send to the training sessions? Tim responded there were no limitations.

MA Update

Susan Wood provided the update and a handout of a PowerPoint presentation on Program Simplification Initiatives for Wisconsin's Medicaid and BadgerCare Programs. She stated that the focus is on customer service and simplification of the overall application and verification process. HCFA needs five eligibility items verified only and DHFS is moving in that direction. The five items are: SSN#, pregnancy status, disability status, asset valuation, and non-citizen status.

Ed Kamin commented the move to program simplification is great and would substantially affect applicant level but not necessarily the agency administration level.

Jennifer Noyes stated that the simplification timeline would be different for Medicaid vs. food stamps programs and we must be mindful of this change with customers who access both programs. Ed added this must be addressed at the local level, in order for implementation to occur with the least amount of resistance. Sara Shackelton concurred.

FS Update

Rick Zynda provided the update on the Food Stamp (FS) reauthorization efforts. The changes would affect income verification and vehicle/asset policies and could be implemented as soon as July. Peggy Bartels suggested that a high-level overview presentation of the food stamp changes would be beneficial for DHFS managers. Bob Macaux suggested that a similar discussion should occur at the regional meetings to get the information out and get local agencies philosophically on board before the actual implementation.

John Rathman inquired if and when the changes occur, would there be a corresponding increase in the federal \$ to process the additional customers to the program? Rick replied that the DOA workgroup was developing strategies to push the state agenda, funding included. Rick would provide the highlights of the DOA workgroup meeting (scheduled for January 30th) at the next meeting. Peggy suggested the FS changes should be added to the agenda of the APHSA meeting in March.

Rick provided a handout on the Overall Food Stamp Error Summary for the period of October 1999 through September 2000, but they are not final. The national error average was 9%.

TANF Reauthorization

Shawn Smith reported that the division had launched a TANF website and the upcoming conference and TANF related information was now available. The website can be found at: <http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/des/tanf/>.

Jennifer Noyes stated that the white papers progress would be shared at the conference. The topics are defining the caseload, retention and advancement, hardest-to-serve, and non-custodial parents. Additionally, an inter-generational services/prevention white paper will be written, but the scope has not been completely defined yet. Dick Buschmann suggested a sixth white paper be commissioned addressing the integration of TANF and unemployment insurance.

Caseload Discussion

Ed Kamin revisited the discussion for a caseload/workload study. Local agencies don't want to reduce flexibility, but the caseload is not readily identifiable, quantifiable or measurable and the need for a structured workload study could glean the underpinning of case complexity. With an appropriate caseload/workload foundation, then a real discussion can take place about funding. Dick Buschmann again discussed the study done in Ohio (has a comparable governmental structure as Wisconsin) by A.T. Hudson Consulting and urged for a similar study here. Ed added that the outcomes might influence a restructuring of local agencies.

Jennifer Noyes asked how would we pay for a study, maybe a combined utility between DHFS and DWD. She agreed to explore and continue to dialogue the merits of a workload/caseload study.

Walk-on

Ed Kamin reported that of the fifteen local agency responses received MAPP was recommended to have CARES changes before the Medicare Premium Assistance program changes and automation of QMB/SLMB/QI. However, the local agency IMAC members' recommendations were 7 to 5 for the automation of QMB/SLMB/QI first. DHFS staff thanked the committee for their recommendation. It will be considered along with the advice from a number of other stakeholders and presented to DHFS management for decision-making.

Meeting was adjourned.



Next meeting:

Date: February 15, 2001

Location: GEF III, Room 041, 125 S. Webster Street, Madison, WI